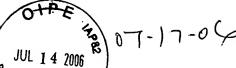
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Under the Paperwor	rk Reduction Act of 1995, no pers	ons a	e required to res	pond to a collection of inform Application Number	nation	unless it displays a valid OMB control number	
TRANSMITTAL			Filing Date		September 4, 2003		
FORM			First Named Inventor		Niel F. STARKSEN		
FORIVI			Art Unit		3734		
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)			Examiner Name		M. Andersen		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission 4			Attorney Docket Numb	oer	578492001500		
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)							
Fee Trans	smittal Form		Drawing(s)	·		After Allowance Communication to TC	
Fee Attached			Licensing-related Papers			Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences	
X Amendment/Reply (3 pages)			Petition			Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)	
After Final			Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application			Proprietary Information	
Affidavits/declaration(s)			Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address			Status Letter	
Extension of Time Request		Terminal Disclaimer		>	Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):		
	•					Return Receipt Postcard	
Express Abandonment Request		Request for Refund					
Information Disclosure Statement		CD, Number of CD(s)					
Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)		Landscape Table on CD					
Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application		Remarks					
Reply to Missing Parts under							
37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53							
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	SIGNATI	JRE	OF APPLICA	ANT, ATTORNEY, OF	RAC	GENT	
Firm Name	MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP (Customer No. 25226)						
Signature							
Printed name	nted name Mika Mayer					and the second s	
Date	July 14, 2006			Reg. No.	4	7,777	
		_					
I hereby certify	that this correspondence is addressed to: MS Amendm	being ent, C	deposited with	the U.S. Postal Service as	s Exp	oress Mail, Airbill No. EV 456362633 US xandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date	

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 456362633 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 14, 2006 Signature: _______ (Megha Aggarwal)

pa-1079973

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Signature: __

Docket No.: 578492001500

(PATENT)

JUL 1 4 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Patent Application of:

Niel F. STARKSEN

Application No.: 10/656,797

Group Art Unit: 3734

Filed: September 4, 2003

Examiner: M. Andersen

For: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC

ANNULUS STABILIZATION AND

TREATMENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 15, 2006, which set forth a Restriction/Election of Species Requirement for pending claims 1-60, and for which a response is due on July 15, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Application No.: 10/656,797 2 Docket No.: 578492001500

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required:

I. Claims 1-34, 58-60, drawn to various methods, classified in class 128, subclass 898.

II. Claims 35-57, drawn to various devices, classified in class 606, subclass 139.

Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that an election of one of the following species is required should the method claims (Group I) be chosen:

Species	Figures/Spec
I	2-3
II	5
III	5A-8
IV	Abstract-radiofrequency energy
V	Abstract-drug delivery
VI	Abstract-shape memory stents

Applicant elects Group II without traverse. Because Applicant has elected Group II, no election of species is required.

Applicant expressly reserves his right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of

such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to <u>Deposit</u>

<u>Account No. 03-1952</u> referencing <u>578492001500</u>. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Mika Mayer

Registration No.: 47,77

MORRISON & FORRSTER LLP

755 Page Will Road

Palo Alto, California 94304-1018

(650) 813-4298